

The Townley House  
Corner Morris and Potter Avenue  
Union, Union County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Townley House  
Corner Morris and Potter Avenue  
Union, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Mary Mc Call Peek

Date of Erection: About 1825

Architect:

Builder: Jonathan Townley

Present Condition: Good; practically unchanged

Number of Stories: Main section two and one-half  
Wing one and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, wide and  
narrow clapboards used

Interior walls - plaster

Floors - 8" planking

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood  
shingles

## Historical Data:

The progenitor of the Townley family in Union was Richard who settled there in 1684. One of his descendants, Jonathan Townley, Sr., built this house for one of his sons, Jonathan, Jr., sometime during the second decade of the nineteenth century. The stone found in the basement wall of the main block with the letters "S<sup>C</sup>. T. X 1702" carved on it, was probably taken from an older Townley house standing in the vicinity.

The will of Jonathan Townley, dated April 28, 1827, gives the homestead, property, and farm containing thirty-five acres to Jonathan, Jr. The property passed from Robert W. Townley, brother and executor of Jonathan, Jr., to Joseph Cross in 1871. Later in the same year William S. Potter became the owner. The property remained in the Potter family until 1923 when Eva S. Potter sold to the Morris Avenue Realty Company. They sold to Frank H. Warncke of that same year. In 1925 Louis Blackley obtained possession, and in 1927 the Peeks became the owners.

## Bibliography:

Union County court records and material  
obtained by Harry Maslow from the  
Townley family

Walter Pratt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 25 '37 *W*